Fundraising Tips

Looking to raise funds for your organization? Many student organizations at BGSU host fundraisers on campus and in the local community to generate revenue for their organization or to raise funds for their philanthropic cause. If raising funds interests your organization, use this guide as a starting point for your efforts.

Below are a few common ways that student organizations at BGSU fundraise:

Selling Downtown

Student organizations have the opportunity to raise funds by selling products downtown in the Community Commons. The Community Commons can be reserved by submitting written request to the Safety Director a minimum of ten (10) business days in advance. Organizations that fundraise in this space are highly encouraged to do any cooking off-site. If this is not an option for you, contact the Municipal Administrator’s office at 419.354.6204 to discuss any additional processes that must be completed or permits that must be filed. Information on using the Community Commons and submitting a written request can be found on the City of Bowling Green website.

Selling Products and Services

When selling products for your organization, it is important to ask yourself the following questions:

1. Where will the organization sell this product?
2. What are the policies of the venue that our organization will need to know?
3. How much will the products cost? What price will I sell my product for?
4. How many products does the organization need to sell in order to reach our target revenue?
5. If your organization is selling baked goods, how is the food being prepared? Where is it being prepared? Is a member of the organization ServSafe® certified?
6. What permits or approvals will I need to sell the product?

When providing a service for a fee, it is important to consider:

1. Type of service your organization could provide to community members or businesses
2. Amount of days/times organizations members would need to available
3. What price would you charge for the service? What price is the patron willing to pay for the service?
4. What are the cost associated with providing the service? (gas, mileage, supplies, etc.)

Whether you are selling baked goods or volunteering at Cedar Point, selling products and services can be a great way to raise money for your organization.

Host an Event
Hosting a 5K? Putting on a Fashion Show? Alumni Brunch? End of year banquet? Create a special memory for others while supporting your organizations’ fundraising efforts. Many student organizations choose to charge admission or registration fees for events as a way to raise money.

**Local Restaurant Promotions**

Is your organization looking for an effective way to raise money while supporting businesses in the BG community? Consider contact businesses in town about hosting a fundraising night at their restaurant. Many restaurants, including Buffalo Wild Wings and Chipotle, are willing to donate a portion of their proceeds from one night of sales to student organizations at BGSU. If you are interested in pursuing this type of fundraising option, call restaurants in the Bowling Green area and inquire more.